



Davidson County Trial Courts
Room 605, Metro Courthouse
Nashville, TN 37201

Davidson County Trial Courts

2006

20th Judicial District, Tennessee

Annual Report & Overview



From the Presiding Judge



Judge Randy Kennedy
Presiding Judge, 20th Judicial District

On behalf of the eighteen trial court judges in the Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts, it is with a great deal of pleasure that we submit this first Annual Report of the Trial Court Judiciary to the people of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. All of us seek to provide fairness and impartiality to all litigants, while maintaining efficiency in the operation of your trial courts. We are hopeful that as you review this report, it will provide you with insight and knowledge regarding the workings of the trial court system and the administration of justice in Nashville.

Finally, the preparation of the Annual Report would not have been possible without the assistance of the court staffs of the trial judges. Nor could we have compiled this important information without the support of the Circuit Court Clerk, Criminal Court Clerk, Clerk and Master and their respective staffs who helped gather the data that makes up this report.

Randy Kennedy

Davidson County Trial Courts

Davidson County constitutes Tennessee's 20th Judicial District. Each year, the Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Court judges within the district select one judge from among their number to serve as the presiding judge for the district. This presiding judge is responsible for ensuring overall administrative efficiency for the district. Trial judges, elected to eight-year terms, are judicial officers provided by the state to preside over courts that resolve disputes arising in one or more local jurisdictions. The jurisdictions may be comprised of several counties or a single county, as is the case with Davidson County.

Chancery

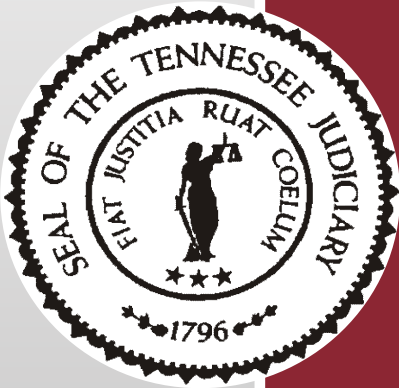
Chancery Courts are what are known as equity courts, stemming from the tradition of the English court system upon which our American system is based. In Chancery Court, the presiding judge (known as the Chancellor) is allowed by law more flexibility in the application of strict legal rules and the assignment of relief specific to the circumstances of any civil case.

Circuit

Circuit Courts are considered the courts of general jurisdiction in Tennessee. A Circuit Court judge may hear both civil and criminal cases, as well as appeals in cases that originated in City, Juvenile, Municipal or General Sessions Courts. Davidson County has a separate Criminal Court, so its Circuit Courts will often overlap jurisdiction with Chancery Courts in the administration of civil cases.

Criminal

Criminal Courts were established by the Tennessee General Assembly to relieve the heavy criminal caseloads of the district's Circuit Courts. As well as criminal cases, misdemeanor appeals from lower courts are heard in the Criminal Courts.





Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman
Part I, Chancery Court



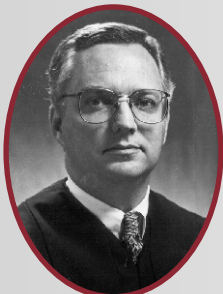
Chancellor Carol McCoy
Part II, Chancery Court



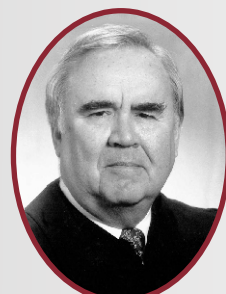
Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle
Part III, Chancery Court



Chancellor Richard Dinkins
Part IV, Chancery Court



Judge Steve Dozier
Division I, Criminal Court



Judge Randall Wyatt
Division II, Criminal Court



Judge Cheryl Blackburn
Division III, Criminal Court



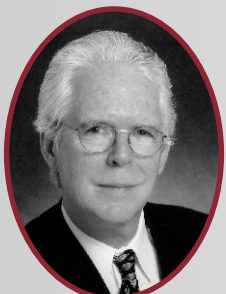
Judge Seth Norman
Division IV, Criminal Court



Judge Monte Watkins
Division V, Criminal Court



Judge Mark Fishburn
Division VI, Criminal Court



Judge Hamilton Gayden
First Circuit Court



Judge Marietta Shipley
Second Circuit Court



Judge Barbara Haynes
Third Circuit Court



Judge Muriel Robinson
Fourth Circuit Court



Judge Walter Kurtz
Fifth Circuit Court



Judge Tom Brothers
Sixth Circuit Court



Judge Randy Kennedy
Seventh Circuit Court
Presiding Judge, 20th Judicial District



Judge Carol Soloman
Eighth Circuit Court

Davidson County Drug Court

The Davidson County Drug Court Program is a diversionary program that provides for the supervision of non-violent offenders with substance abuse problems combined with intensive treatment and other integrated services. The key to the program's success is Developing Character During Confinement (DC4), developed to produce a therapeutic community that allows offenders to address their chemical dependency and mental health issues as well as make modifications to their criminal behavior. The ultimate purpose of the Drug Court Program is reintegrating adult offenders into society. Of all operating Drug Courts in the United States, Davidson County is home to the only drug court that operates its own residential facility.

Davidson County Community Corrections

The Davidson County Community Corrections program helps divert felony offenders from the Tennessee prison system by providing the intensive community-based supervision and treatment services necessary to reduce criminal behavior and create a safer community. All individuals in the Drug Court treatment programs are legally on Community Corrections. Administered under the Community Corrections Program are Dual Disorders Program, DUI Misdemeanor, Probation, Forensic Drug Testing Unit and Alcohol Monitoring Program.

Court Case Statistics for Calendar 2005

Type of Case	Concluded	Filed
Domestic Relations	2469	2500
Civil Cases	3297	3028
Chancery Cases	3748	3406
Criminal Cases	7140	8731
Probate Cases	1873	1909

Community Corrections - 2005

Supervised 513 probationers who:

- Earned \$2.5 million in wages
- Paid \$237,908 in child support and other court-ordered fees
- Performed 80,000 hours of Community Service work

Davidson County Drug Court - 2005

Graduated 60 individuals and:

- Performed 52,864 hours of Community Service work
- Paid \$26,085 in court costs and fines



If you need assistance, or an accommodation made, please contact Julie Newton at (615) 86205700.

